Rural electrification programme

3101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government wants to share responsibility for rural electrification programme;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(e) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments in the Electricity Act; and

(d) by when these amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003 are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir, Central Government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in April, 2005 towards realizing the goal of providing access to electricity to all households in five years, which, *inter-alia*, provides for 90% capital subsidy from the Central Government for projects sanctioned under the scheme.

(b) to (d) There is a proposal to amend the Electricity Act, 2003 which, *inter-alia*, includes amendment to section 6 of the Act, in regard to joint endeavour by the concerned State Governments and the Central Government to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets.

Issuing of tourist visa by private agencies

3102. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ease visa regulations for tourists from abroad, by outsourcing the visa issuing process to private agencies;

(b) whether in order to save on the cost of establishing consulates in many US cities for issue of visas, Government propose to appoint private agencies in these cities to dispense visas; and

(c) whether US, UK and Australia have outsourced their visa centres for Indian tourists to private companies in Indian cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per information gathered from local Embassies/High Commissions of USA, UK and Australia in Delhi, certain visa related services viz., dissemination of information/appointments/collection of application forms have been outsourced by them.

Loss of lives during robbery in Delhi

3103. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, both civilian and police personnel, who lost their lives and were injured in a glaring robbery and shoot out case in Ashok Vihar area of Delhi in June last;

(b) the number of culprits involved in the case apprehended; and

(c) whether any compensation/awards have been paid to the policemen and civilians who helped to nab the culprits, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) One civilian died and four police personnel were injured in the incident of robbery and shoot out case in Ashok Vihar of Delhi on 23rd June, 2005. Delhi Police has arrested three persons in connection with this incident.

(c) Three constables have been given out of turn promotion on ad-hoc basis, while out of turn promotion on ad-hoc basis to one SI has been approved by Commissioner of Police. A commendation roll with cash of Rs. 5000/-each has been awarded to the six civilians by the Commissioner of Police.